

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(ROAD HEARING)**

March 24, 2003

5:30 PM

Chairman O’Neil called the meeting to order.

Chairman O’Neil called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman Sysyn.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Sysyn, Osborne, Pinard, O’Neil, Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith and Forest

Absent: Aldermen Wihby, Gatsas, and Guinta

Chairman O’Neil advised that the purpose of the road hearing is to hear those wishing to speak in favor of or in opposition to proposed street discontinuance petitions; that each petition shall be addressed individually at which time the Deputy Public Works Director shall be requested to make a presentation following which those wishing to speak in favor will be heard, followed by those wishing to speak in opposition; that anyone wishing to speak must first step to the nearest microphone when recognized and recite his/her name and address in a clear, loud voice for the record; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak and any questions must be directed to the Chair.

A. Petition to discontinue a portion of Bell Street.

Chairman O’Neil requested that Kevin Sheppard, Deputy Public Works Director, make a presentation.

Mr. Sheppard stated the petitioner is requesting a discontinuance at approximately 125 Bell Street east of Hall Street. This section of Bell Street was accepted by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen back on August 15, 1892. It is actually laid out from Wilson Street easterly 635.94 feet to the westerly line of land owned by the Elliot Manufacturing Company. Only the section from Wilson over to Hall Street was constructed at that time. This portion, 125 feet, was not constructed. We have reviewed the site and the Highway Department would not have a problem with the discontinuance of this street.

Alderman Forest asked you are not opposed to the street being discontinued at all.

Mr. Sheppard answered no. This street has never been constructed.

Chairman O’Neil called for those wishing to speak in favor.

Mr. Rene Bourque, 325 Hall Street, Manchester stated:

I have been living there abutting Bell Street, that portion that they want to discontinue. I have been there for 45 years. I have been cleaning that area because every time there is a little bit of wind all of the paperwork from down the street comes up and lands there. For me it is difficult because you have all of the branches that things get tied up in. Also, all of these years people going by there use it as a bathroom, which is not too good. I thought maybe...I don’t see anyone else who is going to benefit from owning that area. My area is abutting that section. I have been there for 45 years and cleaning that area plus down the street. Now if people build houses over there hopefully they will clean in front of their own house. Every two weeks I can pick up a couple of barrels full of paper and what have you. If I was able to clean that area of some of the smaller trees that are about 8’ to 10’ high that would open up that area.

Chairman O’Neil asked are you in favor of the discontinuance.

Mr. Bourque answered yes.

Alderman Osborne asked you know how that works now don’t you. When they discontinue this piece, this 125’ do you know how it works? Mr. Sheppard can explain it to you but I am pretty sure half...how wide is the street, Mr. Sheppard? Thirty or forty feet?

Mr. Sheppard answered I believe the petition is for a 50’ right-of-way and typically once a street is discontinued every abutter has a right to petition for their half.

Alderman Osborne asked does the abutter...on Valley Street I think he owns pretty much from what I understood anyway all up Valley Street up to Belmont Street and then over Belmont...I think he has pretty much all of the backside of this 125’ that you have boxed out here. How many feet does your lot go back from Hall Street?

Mr. Bourque answered 100.3 feet.

Alderman Osborne stated so in essence he would have 100.4 feet and then the other fellow would actually surround that.

Mr. Sheppard responded in looking at this plan I think you may have misinterpreted it. He has 100’ frontage on Hall Street but his lot actually abuts all of that. He owns all the way back.

Alderman Osborne asked the 125’.

Mr. Sheppard answered right.

Alderman Osborne stated so you would get 25 more feet. 25 x 125’ roughly. The other abutter would have all the rest of it actually because he owns behind...well no that is all you are taking anyway is 125’ but you understand how it goes.

Lisa Kozakis, 626 Cohas Avenue, Manchester stated:

I am the other abutter of the property you are discussing. It is fine with me if you split it down the middle. I have no objections.

Chairman O’Neil called for those wishing to speak in opposition.

There were none.

On motion of Alderman Pinard, duly seconded by Alderman Sysyn, it was voted to recess the hearing and proceed to view the area of the petition presented.

Chairman O’Neil called the meeting back to order at the site of the petition.

A. Petition to discontinue a portion of Bell Street.

On motion of Alderman Osborne, duly seconded by Alderman Smith, it was voted to approve the discontinuance of a portion of Bell Street as petitioned reserving any and all utility easements.

This being a special meeting of the Board, no further business was presented and on motion of Alderman Pinard, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk